

The Hawaiian Star.
(DAILY AND WEEKLY.)

Published Every Afternoon (Except Sunday) by the Hawaiian Star Newspaper Association, Ltd.

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING AGENTS.
Chicago—James E. Colby, 309 Stock Exchange Building.
San Francisco—Dake's Advertising Agency, 64 Merchant's Exchange.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Per Year (in Advance).....\$ 8.00
Three Months (in Advance)..... 2.00
Per Month (in Advance)..... .75
Foreign, per Year (in Advance, 12.00)

SEMI-WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION.
Local Subscribers, per Annum, \$2.00
Foreign Subscribers, per Annum, 3.00 (Strictly in Advance.)

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1899.

The funeral of the Princess Kaiulani, which was conducted yesterday, was a most solemn and sad ceremonial. The hearts of all had been touched by the untimely death of one so young and so fair promise, so that there was more true sorrow shown than is the case with state funerals as a rule. The feeling everywhere expressed was not merely ceremonial, but welled out in grief for the dead girl, apart from her rank and station, and sympathy for the grief-stricken father. It was the saddest state funeral that ever wended its way up Nuuanu valley.

The cabinet has evidently settled its differences and intends to wash its dirty linen in private for the future. This is very much better. After the years of struggle that the members have gone through, it was unseemly that there should be division, and the public will be satisfied that a peaceful solution has been reached and that whatever breach may have existed has been healed.

In the year 1900 it is proposed to take a world's census, and the Hawaiian Islands will come under the federal regulations for that purpose. The queries under these will be more far reaching than anything the people of these islands have been accustomed to. There will be questions as to the number of people employed, amount of capital invested, wages paid, etc. Then the number of deformed, of the deaf, the dumb, the blind and the idiotic, will be inquired into. The number of cattle, sheep, horses and so forth will be called for. Previous census information will be small to what will be required in 1900.

With very little stir or ostentation an expedition started for Guam on Saturday. The schooner Bessie Stevens may, however, prove a very memorable vessel for that little island. On board were three Protestant missionaries, and as the island is now entirely Roman Catholic, there is very likely to be considerable friction between the new arrivals and the priests, who, up to the present, have had government support, or in other words have represented the religion of the state. It will only be by the best judgment and care that unseemly religious brawls will be avoided, especially as the people of Guam, like the people of all places under Spanish rule, are densely ignorant.

PSEUDO-QUARANTINE.

The mock quarantine which was kept up while the China was in port deserves somewhat further notice than that it has had. It must be clearly understood that if the health authorities decide that quarantine is necessary and carry it out strictly the Star is fully in accord with the authorities, and would support them. But it is not in accord with a half and half quarantine which is used as those in authority think fit.

Let the facts be considered. A case of smallpox was developed among the steerage passengers between Hongkong and Nagasaki. The case was landed in Japan and no other cases developed during the voyage. When the China arrived here she of course flew the yellow flag was boarded by the port physician, and he decided that the vessel might come up in the wharf in quarantine. So far there is no kick coming. It is the port physician's duty to protect the city from contagion.

Now consider how the quarantine was carried out. The pilot went on board, and came off again. He of course could carry no contagion. One pilot boatman went on board and mingled with the crew. One customs officer went on board and returned. Jack McVeigh went on board and presumably mingled with the Japanese passengers. Archie Gillilan went on board. Dr. Day of course went on board and returned into town. Mr. Isenberg went on board; so did the passenger clerk for Hackfeld & Co. The stevedores passed back and forth. Consul Haywood went on board. Most of the first class passengers, the captain, the purser, the officers, the deck hands, the stewards, came back and forth. These are facts, and not haphazard surmises.

On the other hand some persons who had business which would not occupy more than a few minutes were refused admission. The stern arm of the efficient Board of Health came down with a thud and its mouthpiece became horrified at the idea of contagion being carried into the town. Moreover some of the Honolulu passengers having once gone on board were not allowed to return, lest they should bring contagion ashore.

As Mulvaney says, "Tis a Solomon of a regulation." It must have required deep study and long sitting up o' nights to have evolved such a scheme.

One can imagine how through the dreary night watches the members of the Board of Health must have wrestled with the question as to who were immune and who were not. And how they wisely settled that the captain whose duty takes him to every part of the ship could not carry contagion, while a man who comes from the shore and speaks to him on the bridge is a highly dangerous menace to the community. But if the captain comes onto the wharf and talks with the same man, he is perfectly innocuous. Again a passenger who has come all the way from China in the ship can go into our tramcars and hacks without any danger to the people ashore, but a Honolulu passenger—unless he happened to be a very important individual indeed, when his importance would cast an immune cloak over him—would be highly dangerous.

The light in which the Board of Health stands in this matter is certainly not an enviable one, for it is as illogical as the many positions of Mrs. Caudle. It is sad, but it is true, that the Board must be likened to that estimable old woman.

CRACK THE NUT.

The Chinese question does not seem quite laid at rest. Agent Brown finds that the Hawaiian consul at Hongkong is still issuing consular passports. Mr. Brown cannot see how a consul of the Hawaiian government can issue passports, when the Hawaiian government cannot issue permits. But Agent Brown might go further and ask how the Hawaiian government can have a consul at Hongkong at all, and why, the United States should not transact Hawaiian business, seeing that the Hawaiian foreign office by the act of annexation was abolished, and the consuls of France, Great Britain and other European countries, who are resident in Honolulu, are accredited not to the Hawaiian government, but to Washington.

As a separate entity the Hawaiian government does not exist in the official minds of Great Britain or France. It is merged into the United States. If anything goes wrong with any of their subjects here it is the United States and not the officially non-existent Hawaiian government that will have to straighten out matters and be responsible. If Great Britain has no consul accredited to the Hawaiian government, because officially it has ceased to exist, how can the Hawaiian government have a consul in a British colony?

The appointment of a consul is an act of sovereignty. But the sovereignty of Hawaii ceased to exist on August 12, 1898, when Minister Sewall accepted the sovereignty of Hawaii on behalf of the President of the United States. Hawaii having no longer any sovereign power, how can there be a representative at Hongkong, or anywhere else, of what does not exist?

The state of California, or the state of New York, cannot have a consul of its own, with consular powers. Their representative must be the representative of the federal government. They can have as many unofficial people to look after their affairs as they like, but they cannot have an official representative in a foreign country. And what is true of California, New York or any other state, is certainly true of Hawaii.

We may not have our organic law, but that is between the United States and ourselves. We might not have an organic law for years. But that does not give us any sovereign rights. For the convenience of the United States we may carry on our own internal affairs as we have done in the past, and we may continue the names for offices and the functions of officers as in the past, but this is entirely internal. To the outside world we are a part of the United States. When a foreign man of war comes into this port it salutes the stars and stripes, not the Hawaiian flag. It must be plain therefore that the so-called Hawaiian consuls in different parts of the world are not really consuls and have no official powers whatever.

The argument may be brought forward that the United States has a consul down here and that it recognizes an Hawaiian consul in San Francisco. But what the United States for its own convenience may do within its own borders or what officers it may recognize and what names it may call them, is its own business. When it comes to dealing with foreign countries it is quite a different affair.

A representative of a country, be he ambassador or be he consul, has his character made known by the credentials of the sovereign, or the sovereign power, which sends him. "Credentials," says Vattel, "are the instrument which authorizes and establishes the minister (or consul) in his character with the prince to whom they are addressed." Who has power in the Hawaiian Islands to issue "credentials" to any one to represent a non-existent power in whatever capacity it may be, in a foreign country? It is a question that would be hard indeed to answer.

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